



February 29, 2008

Testimony in favor of Raised Bill No. 5446
Committee on Public Health

Senator Handley and Representative Sayers
Members of the Public Health Committee

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Raised Bill 5446, AAC Standards in Contracts between Health Insurers and Physicians. My name is Lynn Price. I am a family nurse practitioner, and Government Relations Chair of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society. Our organization represents advanced practice registered nurses in a variety of settings throughout our state.

The Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society supports the proposed changes to require that contracts between insurers and physicians, psychologists, podiatrists, chiropractors, and optometrists provide adequate explanation of payment methodology, timing, dispute mechanisms, and fee schedules. We applaud this bill's intent to require greater accountability regarding reimbursement agreements. We ask that advanced practice nurses be added to the bill as a provider covered by the intent of the bill.

Advanced practice nurses contract with health insurance companies and health care centers. We carry panels of patients covered by these insurers. We have the same issues and negotiating needs as do physicians, psychologists, podiatrists, chiropractors, and optometrists regarding these arrangements. We respectfully request the bill's language be changed to include advanced practice registered nurses, since we also contract with insurers for our services.

Thank you for your efforts to improve contractual agreements with health insurers, and your consideration of our concerns.

Lynn Price, JD, MSN, MPH, APRN
Government Relations Chair, Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society